

Japhug language

Japhug is a Gyalrong language spoken in Barkam County, Rngaba, Sichuan, China, in the three townships of Gdong-brgyad (Chinese: 龙 尔 甲 ; pinyin: *Lóng'rjiǎ*, Japhug IPA: [ɛdurʈʂt]), Gsar-rdzong (Chinese: 沙 尔 宗; pinyin: *Shā'rzōng*, Japhug IPA: [sarndzu]) and Da-tshang (Chinese: 大 藏; pinyin: *Dàzàng*, Japhug IPA: [tatsʰi]).

The endonym of the Japhug language is IPA: [kʷrʷ skʲʈ]. The name Japhug IPA: [tɕʰpʰʷ] (Chinese: 茶 堡 ; pinyin: *Chábǎo*) refers in Japhug to the area comprising Gsar-rdzong and Da-tshang, while that of Gdong-brgyad is also known as IPA: [sʲʈŋʷ] (Jacques 2004), but speakers of Situ Gyalrong use this name to refer to the whole Japhug-speaking area.

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Japhug	
IPA: [kʷrʷ skʲʈ]	
Pronunciation	IPA: [tɕʰpʰʷ]
Native to	China
Region	Sichuan
Language family	Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Qiangic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gyalrongic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gyalrong<ul style="list-style-type: none">Japhug
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	(included in jya (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/jya))
Glottolog	japh1234 (http://glottolog.org/resource/lanuoid/id/japh1234) ^[1]

Phonology

Japhug is the only toneless Gyalrong language. It has 49 consonants and seven vowels.

Consonants

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Retroflex</u>	<u>Alveopalatal</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Uvular</u>
<u>Occlusive</u>	nasal	m	n				ɲ	ŋ	
	prenasalized	mb	nd	ndz	ndʑ	ndʒ	ɲɟ	ŋɡ	ŋɡ
	voiced	b	d	dz	dʑ	dʒ	ɟ	ɡ	
	voiceless	p	t	ts	tʂ	tɕ	c	k	q
	aspirated	pʰ	tʰ	tsʰ	tʂʰ	tɕʰ	cʰ	kʰ	qʰ
<u>Continuant</u>	voiced	w	l	z	r	ʐ	j	ɣ	ʁ
	voiceless		ɭ	s	ʂ	ɕ		x	χ

The phoneme /w/ has the allophones [β] and [f].

The phoneme /ɕ/ is realized as an epiglottal fricative in the coda or preceding another consonant.

The prenasalized consonants are analyzed as units for two reasons. First, there is a phoneme /ŋɡ/, as in /ŋɡoŋa/ "large spider", but neither /ŋ/ nor /ɡ/ exist as independent phonemes. Second, there are clusters of fricatives and prenasalized voiced stops, as in /ʐmbri/ "willow", but never clusters of fricatives and prenasalized voiceless stops.

Japhug distinguishes between palatal plosives and velar plosive + j sequences, as in /co/ "valley" vs. /kjo/ "drag". These both contrast with alveolo-palatal affricates.

There are at least 339 consonant clusters in Japhug (Jacques 2008:29), more than in Old Tibetan or in most Indo-European languages. Some of these clusters are typologically unusual: in addition to the previously mentioned clusters of fricatives and prenasalized stops, there are clusters where the first element is a semivowel, as in /jla/ "hybrid of a yak and a cow".

Vowels

Japhug has eight vowel phonemes: a, o, u, ʏ, ʊ, y, e and i. The vowel y is attested in only one native word (/qa ʏ y/ "fish") and its derivatives, but appears in Chinese loanwords.

Grammar

Jacques (2008) is a short grammar and Jacques and Chen (2010) a text collection with interlinear glosses. Other studies on morphosyntax include Jacques (2010) on Direct-inverse marking, Jacques (2012a) on valency (passive, antipassive, anticausative, labiality etc.), Jacques (2012b) on incorporation and Jacques (2013) on associated motion.

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